

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283

Phone: (217)492-4295

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/agstats.htm>

RELEASED: March 27, 2000 3 P.M., CT

VOL. 21, NO. 05

Warm temperatures with some scattered precipitation have been reported throughout the state so far in March. As of March 24, the topsoil moisture condition was rated 14 percent very short, 51 percent short, 31 percent adequate and four percent surplus. The concern of low subsoil moisture still lingers, since ponds and wells remain below normal levels. The winter wheat crop has improved since last month because of the needed moisture and the continued mild weather conditions. As of March 24, the wheat condition was rated five percent poor, 30 percent fair, 49 percent good and 16 percent excellent. Many farmers have taken advantage of the mild conditions to get a head start on spring tillage, anhydrous and dry fertilizer applications and seeding oats. Calving season is in full swing and conditions are generally favorable for livestock care. Other activities during the month have included hauling grain to market, ordering seed and machinery preparation.

Illinois District Summary

District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
March 24				
Northwest	7	61	32	-
Northeast	-	66	34	-
West	30	53	17	-
Central	14	54	32	-
East	25	36	36	3
W Southwest	11	53	36	-
E Southeast	21	56	14	9
Southwest	-	41	47	12
Southeast	-	16	49	35
State	14	51	31	4

Temperature and Precipitation

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
March 1 - 26						
Northwest	42.6	35.4	7.1	1.00	2.10	-1.10
Northeast	43.3	35.7	7.6	1.07	2.08	-1.01
West	45.0	39.1	5.8	2.05	2.40	-0.35
Central	45.1	38.5	6.7	1.78	2.46	-0.68
East	44.3	38.4	5.9	1.60	2.48	-0.88
W Southwest	45.7	41.3	4.5	2.27	2.70	-0.43
E Southeast	45.7	41.8	3.8	2.31	3.01	-0.70
Southwest	47.3	44.5	2.8	2.77	3.16	-0.39
Southeast	47.9	44.8	3.1	3.37	3.52	-0.15
State	45.1	39.7	5.3	1.97	2.63	-0.66

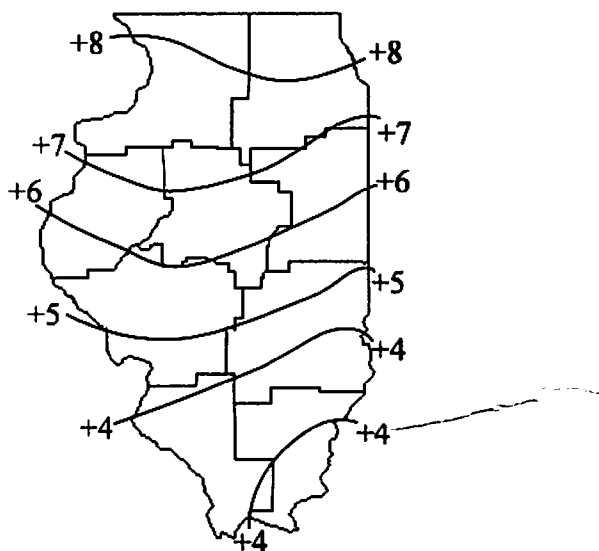
Weather data provided by Illinois State Water Survey, Department of Natural Resources, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, Il. 61820, (217)244-8226.

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

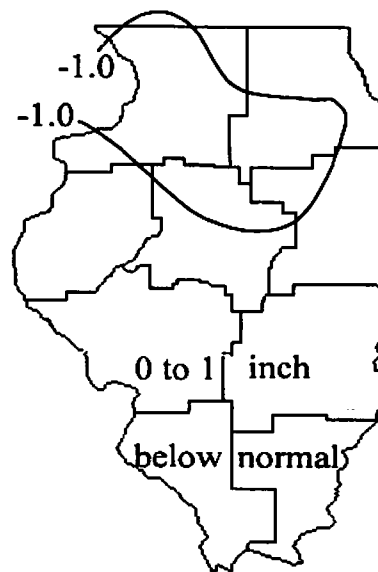
Illinois Weather & Crops
March 27, 2000

Illinois Weather & Crops (ISSN 0273-8635) is published weekly April-October, semimonthly in January, monthly in December, February and March and three issues in November, by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, Room 54, Department of Agriculture Bldg., 801 Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL 62702. For information on subscribing, send request to the above address. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois. Postmaster: Send Address Change to Illinois Weather & Crops, P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283.

Maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey
Visit their home page at <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>
(217)244-8226



Temperature Departure
March 1 - 26



Precipitation Departure
March 1 - 26

Crop PROGRESS INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by local area officials of Farm Service Agency, Extension Service, National Resources Conservation Service, Farm Business Farm Management field staff, and agribusiness managers.

"Printed by authority of the State of Illinois" 3/27/00, 2,375, 1444

